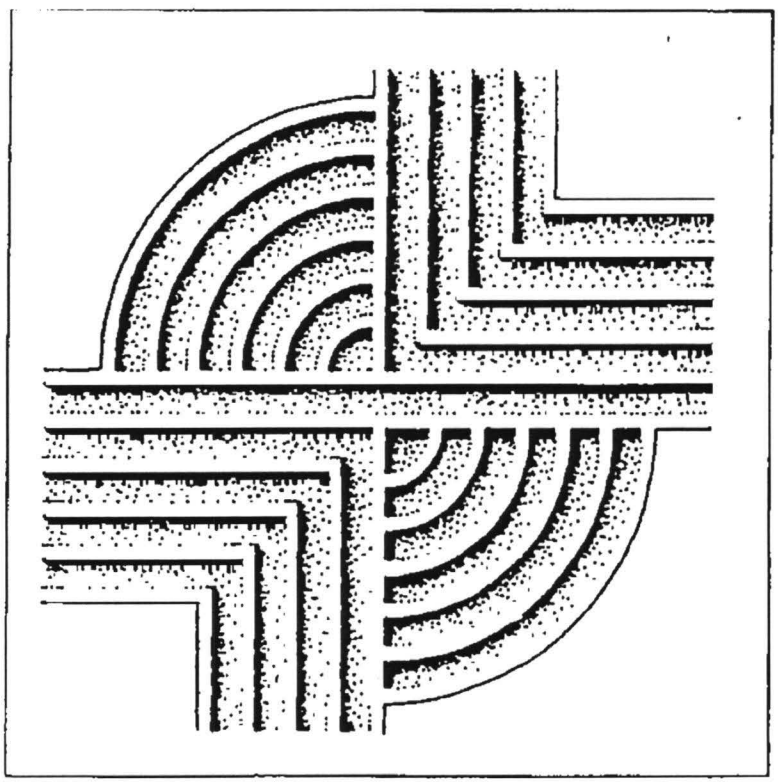
MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA RECOVERY AT 38CH1456, SECESSIONVILLE, CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 194

ABSTRACT

This document provides a management summary for the excavations at 38CH1456, a site originally thought to represent a palisaded Mississippian village. Data recovery efforts were conducted under a scope of work approved by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SC SHPO) which focused on the use of heavy equipment to mechanically strip site areas in order to expose features. During the course of this work it was discovered that the trench-like features previously thought to represent palisade lines in actuality represented a drainage ditch likely associated with Secessionville (an antebellum planters' summer village) and earthwork ditches associated with the Fort Lamar coastal batteries, constructed by Confederate troops during the Civil War. While some Mississippian pottery was present, the primary prehistoric component was Late Archaic Thom's Creek.

Approximately 28,000 square feet have been exposed by mechanical stripping, not including the 12,000 square feet initially opened in testing. Twelve features were identified in the work, seven of which were historic and five of which were prehistoric.

Historic features, as previously mentioned, included sections of the Fort Lamar coastal battery earthworks and sections of an antebellum drainage ditch. Also identified was a horse or donkey burial apparently dating to the military occupation of the site. Of greatest interest are a series of three spatially clustered features — a burn area for trash disposal, a narrow trench which was quickly backfilled with little refuse, and what was discovered to represent a semi-subterranean structure measuring about 9 by 13 feet which was apparently used by Confederate troops stationed at Fort Lamar. This latter feature is of particular significance since it provides important information on camp life and daily activities.

Prehistoric features included one post hole which was originally thought to be a small pit, and four shell pits. All of these are associated with Thom's Creek pottery. Three of these shell pits were looted over one weekend during our work at the site. The only intact feature, however, provided exceptional subsistence data.

This report has been prepared upon the completion of the fieldwork at 38CH1456 and does not contain detailed information on artifact analyses or any detailed site evaluation. It is intended solely to provide a brief statement of the work conducted by Chicora and to allow the SC SHPO to verify that the proposed work has actually been accomplished.

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

These investigations were conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Miles Martschink of Martschink Realty Company between Monday, July 8, 1996 and Friday, August 2, 1996. The site is situated in the Secessionville subdivision on James Island, about 5.0 miles southwest of the City of Charleston (Figure 1). The area, which for years has been cultivated or used as pasture for cattle, is bounded to the south by the marshes of Secessionville Creek and to the north by Fort Lamar Road (S-385) (Figure 2). Today the site area is a broad expanse of nearly level fields grown up in light grass. To the east and west, in areas previously cleared for development activities by the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, there are early stages of single family development — laying out of lots, utility construction, and in one case, house construction. It is this anticipated single family development which has necessitated archaeological data recovery at 38CH1456.

The site was initially identified by an archaeological survey of the 32.5 acre development tract conducted by Scott Butler (1994) of Brockington and Associates in late 1992. The survey reported that the site covered virtually the entire development tract and consisted of:

> dense prehistoric ceramic and shell scatter with a relatively dense historic component. . . . Shovel tests recovered prehistoric sherds from both the Woodland and Mississippian periods; oyster shell and whelk tools are also prevalent on the surface. The historic component consists of a dense nineteenth century artifact scatter containing dark green glass, ginger beer bottle stoneware, alkaline and salt glazed stoneware, whiteware, and ironstone. Lead military ammunition and other metal artifacts diagnostic of the Civil War period were also located (during the metal detector survey) (Butler 1994:71).

At the northeast corner of the site Scott reported a possible Civil War encampment, characterized by a low density of artifacts, primarily noted on the surface. A second, more central concentration of prehistoric pottery was found, characterized primarily by "residual" or small sherds which was suggested to represent a "large Mississippian and Woodland period village or camp" (Butler 1994:74).

Although the bulk of the survey effort was limited to shovel testing and metal detecting, a single 1-meter unit was excavated at the extreme northwest edge of the survey tract, adjacent to the Fort Lamar earthworks. Here Butler found a modern plowzone, probably consisting of erosional spoil from earthworks covering an earlier (antebellum) plowzone. This deeper plowzone contained primarily Deptford materials. This survey effort also included a very detailed and thorough historical account of the antebellum Secessionville summer village and the Civil War fortifications at Fort Lamar (Butler 1994:18-56).

The archaeological site form for 38CH1456 recommended the site as potentially eligible, noting that the site "may contain remains of prehistoric residences as well as portions of antebellum slave village associated with Secessionville Plantation and portions of a Confederate camp associated with Fort Lamar" (38CH1456 site form, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology). The report echoed that the site was thought to be potentially eligible, although additional testing was needed "(1) to evaluate site significance and thus determine if further

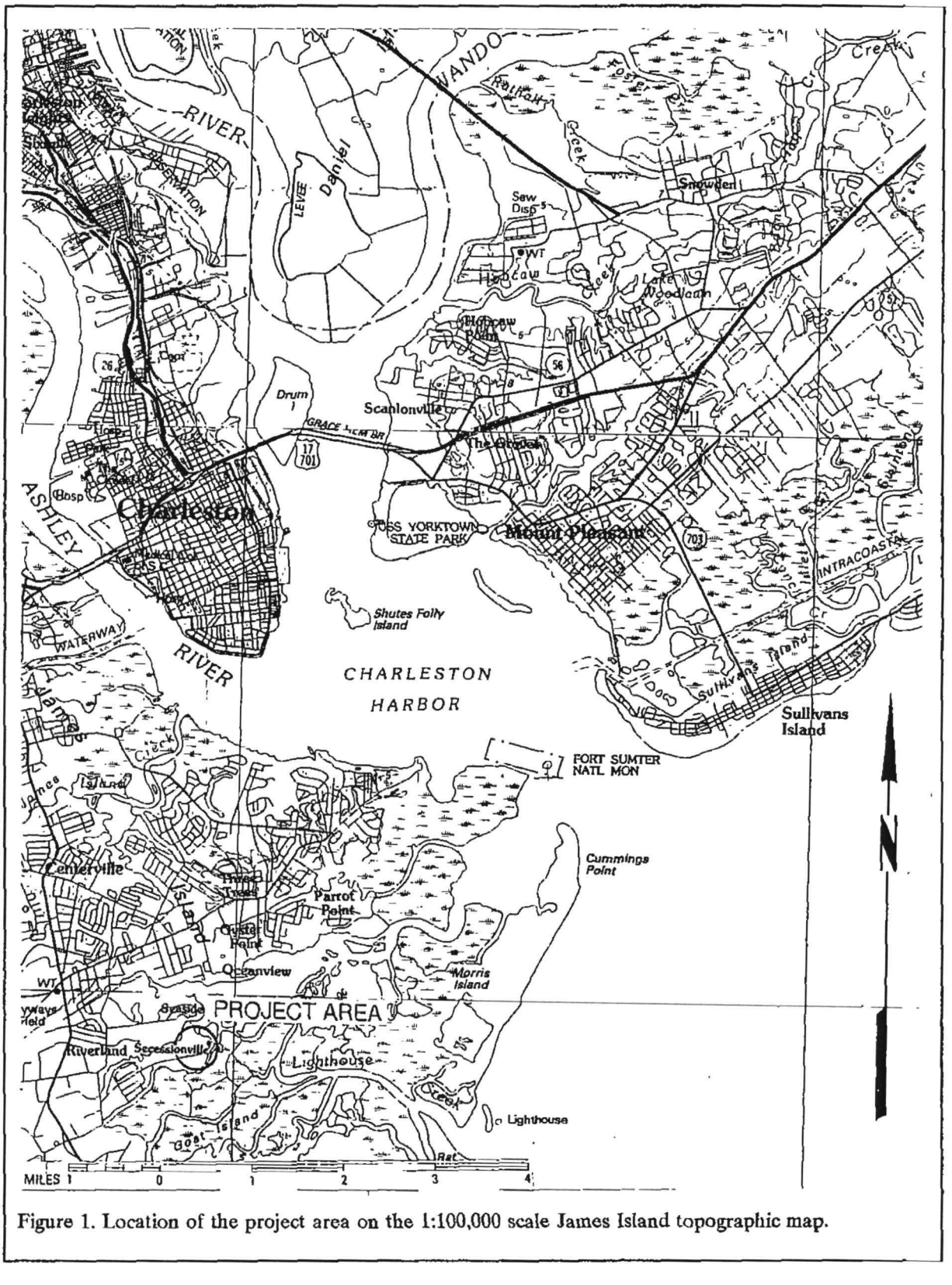

Figure 1. Location of the project area on the 1:100,000 scale James Island topographic map.

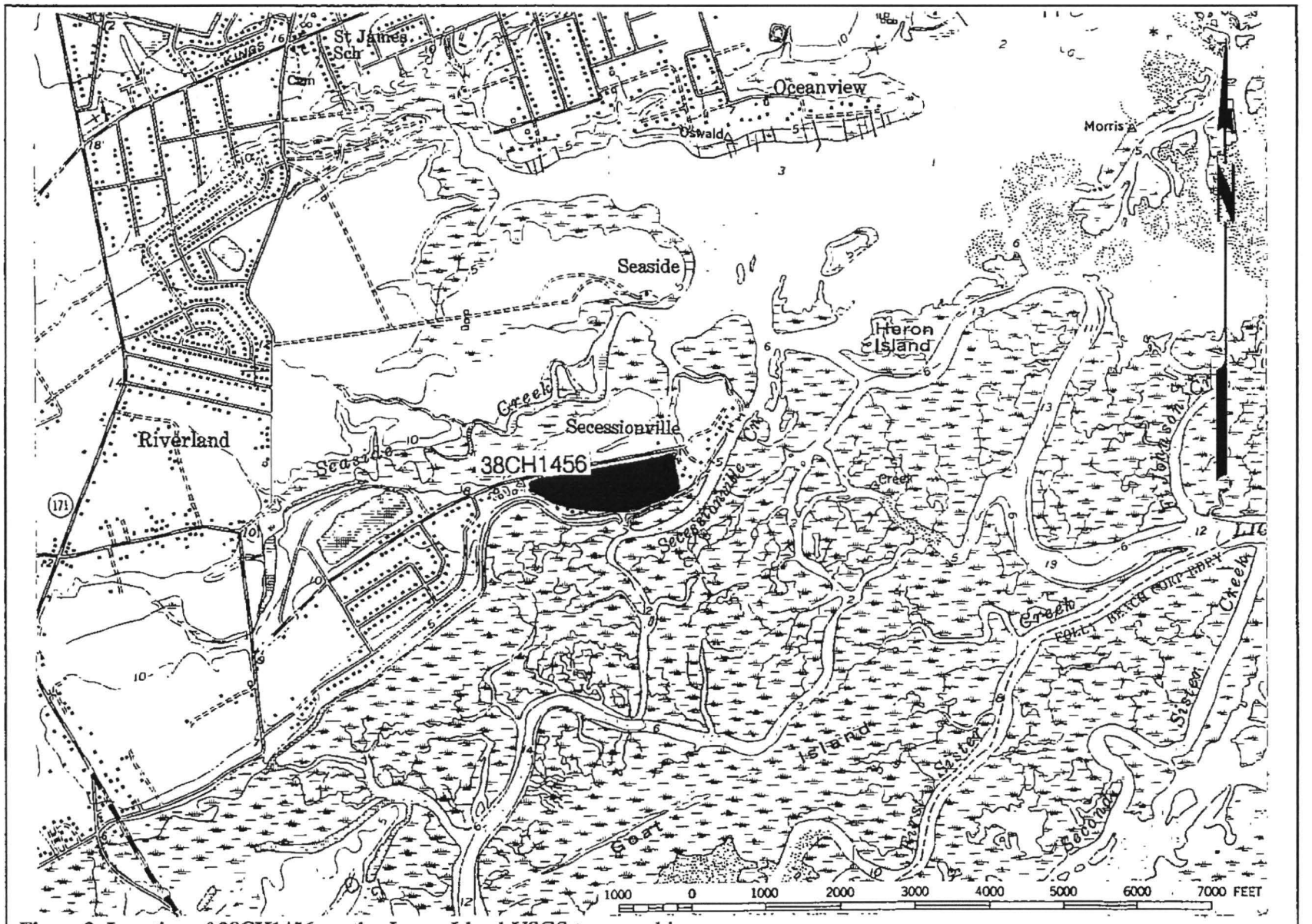

Figure 2. Location of 38CH1456 on the James Island USGS topographic map.

management of the site is necessary, and (2) if further management (data recovery/development redesign) is necessary to determine what time and cost will be involved" (Butler 1994:79).

A proposal for this additional testing work was provided by Brockington and Associates in late February 1994. The work was apparently approved by the SC SHPO and a series of 10-foot wide bulldozer cuts were made at the southern edge of the field, along with 12 1-meter test units excavated by hand, in May 1994. The only summary of this work that we have been able to identify is a short synopsis provided in the resulting data recovery proposal by Brockington and Associates:

> In Lots 7, 8, 9, and 10, the machine scraping revealed extensive subsurface features. The most significant features revealed were segments of a Late Woodland/Early Mississippian palisade trench measuring 80-110 cm in width, and extending 70-95 cm below the scrape surface. Prehistoric middens and post patterns, indicating the presence of Late Woodland/Early Mississippian houses were also located in the southern portions of Lots 7-10. These remains were judged significant; it was believed that house construction in these lots would result in adverse impacts to significant subsurface archaeological features. . . . Significant research issues which may be addressed by data from 38CH1456 include: seasonality, site function; importance of horticulture, craft specialization and interregional contact; vessel assemblage; intra-site settlement; site abandonment; structure form and function; and Mississippian ceremonialism (Anonymous 1994:1).

It is our understanding that the SC SHPO concurred with the eligibility assessment and a short time later an MOA was prepared covering National Register eligible site 38CH1456 (signed on December 12, 1994 by Ms. Mary Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer). Although historic remains, including brick concentrations and artifacts, were found to the west of Lot 7 and although the trench features continued east of Lot 10, these areas were determined to be insignificant by the SC SHPO and were released for development.

An archaeological data recovery plan, dated November 15, 1994, was provided by Brockington and Associates to Martschink Realty Company. This proposal, however, was apparently never acted upon and the site remained open from the previous testing.

Chicora Foundation submitted a proposal for the data recovery efforts at the request of Mr. Miles Martschink in early June 1996, with the request that we follow, as closely as possible, the technical data recovery plan previously submitted by Brockington and Associates. In order to develop this proposal we were provided access to the technical proposal (Anonymous 1994) and a map of the stripped areas, showing the features encountered. We have also visited the site in June and observed the stripped areas which have been left open.

It appeared that the stripping revealed ditch-like features, which *might* be palisade lines. It likely forms one square corner. Although no wall lengths are currently known, the southern wall measures at least 250 feet in length, while the western measures at least 150 feet in length (based on the portions exposed by the grading). The features observed in Lot 9 suggests the possibility of multiple palisade lines.

Within the posited palisade lines are a few features, most appearing to be post holes. No distinct house forms, or even wall sections, could be identified from either the on-site examination or review of the site map. The pottery recovered from the work apparently spans the Woodland Period. During a brief walk-over survey we recovered three Stallings Plain sherds, 32 Thom's Creek Plain sherds, two Thom's Creek Finger Pinched sherds, five Irene Complicated Stamped sherds, one possible Irene Simple Stamped

specimen, 10 Irene Plain sherds, and 12 unidentifiable sherds. Also recovered were two fragmentary baked clay objects, one probable Savannah River Stemmed point and six historic items.

While it was impossible to know how representative this collection was of the total site, the Late Archaic/Early Woodland pottery accounted for 57% of the total or 70% of those sherds identifiable to a specific period. This called into question the assumption that this is a palisaded Mississippian village. There simply didn't seem to be enough late Mississippian material present.

In some respects the findings at 38CH1456 resemble the palisade of the moundless ceremonial center found at Charles Town Landing (South 1971). At this site three distinct palisade lines were encountered, forming a square roughly 200 by 208 feet. An addition, measuring 85 by 105 feet, was found on the western edge. A square walled temple and temple sheds were identified by South, although a great many more post holes appear random, unassociated with any recognized structures. Posts at 38CH1456 are much less common. While large features were relatively common at the ceremonial center, they are absent within the stripped areas on the Martschink property. Mississippian pottery was apparently common at the Charles Town Landing site and was dominated by complicated stamped designs. Incised and cord marked wares were uncommon. At 38CH1456 complicated stamped pottery is suspiciously uncommon, at least based on the limited pedestrian survey.

In other words, there were aspects of 38CH1456 which certainly *resemble* the Charles Town Landing moundless ceremonial center. They were, however, just as many other anticipated features which were not present. While we respected our colleagues assessment that this site represents a Mississippian settlement, this seemed yet to be conclusively documented.

Chicora's proposal was accepted by Martschink Realty Company on June 21, 1996 and was immediately submitted to the SC SHPO for review. Although no comments concerning the proposal were received from the SC SHPO, a letter from Mr. H. Stephen Snyder, Director of the Coastal Zone Management Division of the Office of Coastal Resource Management dated June 27, authorized Mr. Martschink to proceed with archaeological data recovery efforts.

The archaeological investigations were begun at 38CH1456 by a crew of five (including the Principal Investigator) on July 8, 1996 and continued through August 2, 1996. A total of 660 person hours were spent in the field with an additional 34 person hours spent on laboratory analysis and field processing. As a result of this work, 28,000 square feet of site were opened in addition to the 12,000 square feet exposed during the initial testing.

This management summary has been prepared upon the completion of the fieldwork at 38CH1456 and does not contain detailed information on artifact analyses or any detailed site evaluation. It is intended solely to provide a brief statement of the work conducted by Chicora and to allow the SC SHPO to verify that the proposed work has actually been accomplished. The management summary may minimally be necessary for Martschink Realty Company to continue with the development of the land encompassing 38CH1456. This construction will destroy the site and, of course, created the need for archaeological mitigation activities initially.

Proposed Research Design

Moving to the Scope of Work, the investigations to be undertaken were to consist of three specific tasks:

1. Using mechanical stripping an effort to determine the exact nature of the supposed palisade trench and its placement was necessary.

2. Using mechanical stripping, it was necessary to determine the function of the additional trenches found to the south of the major "palisade" line.

3. Using mechanical stripping an

> effort to expose a portion of the settlement area thought to lie within the "palisade" lines was critical.

In addition, data recovery required that a certain level of analysis be undertaken, and established certain levels of consultation, report production, curation, and literature review. Further the field work would require attention to both horizontal and vertical control, data collection strategies, and feature excavation.

Based on the survey, testing, and stripping data, Brockington and Associates outlined nine specific research topics: (1) seasonality of village occupation, (2) site function, (3) importance of horticulture, (4) craft specialization, (5) vessel use assemblage, (6) intra-site settlement pattern, (7) reasons for abandonment of the village, (8) structure form, size, permanence, and methods of construction, and (9) Mississippian ceremonialism. All of these are very complex, but worthwhile, endeavors. All make one or more assumptions.

For example, the research topic on Mississippian ceremonialism assumes that the shell-filled feature is a palisade, that it is a palisade for a Mississippian village, and that ceremonial objects will be found in primary contexts. As the Brockington and Associates discussion points out, "there are no known mound centers [in which ceremonial objects are most commonly found] in the coastal region." While a mound-less ceremonial center was encountered during the exploration of Charles Town Landing (South 1971), relatively few "ceremonial" objects were found. This suggests that however significant this particular research goal is, it may be impossible to obtain the data from 38CH1456 necessary to address the question.

As another example, it is proposed to explore "craft specialization," with the observation "given that the village apparently served as a regional focus of ceremony and power, it is likely that the site also saw some degree of craft specialization to create high status items for local use and for export." While we certainly concur this is a common situation, there is actually relatively little evidence that this was a village, and even less that it served as a "regional focus." The current study, at least as far as we can ascertain, has not produced evidence of shell beads, shell gorgets, specialized pottery vessels, mica sheets, soapstone, or exotic lithic materials. Again, this is a worthwhile research goal, we are just not sure that it can be successfully addressed at 38CH1456.

As unexciting as it may initially seem, we were convinced that a simple exploratory research design was necessary at this site. It seemed very important to resolve some fundamental questions concerning the site and its function before it would be possible to expand into higher order research.

Do the trench-like features actually represent palisade lines? While in many respects they are consistent with our expectations of palisades, why is shell so consistently associated with these trenches (nothing similar was seen at the Charles Town Landing site)? Why are not individual posts more obvious? If they aren't palisade lines what are they? If they are palisade lines, do the different trenches represent distinct lines? What happens to these different lines (do they merge, for example)? What is the total area they enclose? Is there any evidence that the multiple lines suggest village growth, rather than simply replacement of deteriorating wall sections? Can entrances be found and what will these look like? Very different entrances have been reported for the Charles Town site (South 1971:203) than were found at Town Creek (Coe 1995:87-88). Are sufficient post holes present to represent house patterns and can they be distinguished? Are other types of features, commonly found at palisaded villages, also present at 38CH1456? Are human burials present, as might be expected at a Mississippian village? Are quantities of animal bones present, perhaps preserved by the shell in the palisade trench (since refuse was frequently thrown up against the palisade)? Are ethnobotanical remains present (perhaps as cob pits associated with the village square)? If ethnobotanical remains are present, will they contain cultigens such as corn? Can the site yield reasonably accurate radiometric dating useful in refining the chronology of the Mississippian Period along the South Carolina coast?

The questions were seemingly endless since, frankly, there is so little documented about this particular site and so little information had been recovered through the testing phase.

Nevertheless, within this multitude of questions we felt it appropriate to focus on a small handful, otherwise research can easily become disjointed and diluted. We believed that there are essentially three questions appropriate to this site.

First, what does the site represent? This question would be addressed through site stripping, as previously proposed and reviewed by the SHPO, and interpretation of the features (such as pits and palisade lines). It would involve accurate recordation of the features and sample excavations of different feature types.

Second, what is the temporal placement of the site? This question would be addressed in two ways. The first would be a typological assessment of recovered artifacts, most specifically the pottery. As previously mentioned, most of the pottery obtained by Chicora during a grab survey dates to the Late Archaic or Early Woodland, although a small quantity of Mississippian wares were present. The typological analysis might focus on either the Mississippian wares or the wares dominating the site, depending on what is found during the stripping operations. The second manner of addressing the chronological placement of the site will be through radiometric determinations. We proposed to obtain dates, using wood charcoal, from several well defined features which were clearly associated with one ceramic assemblage. Our goal will be to obtain reliable dates with clear associates.

Third, what can the site tell us about subsistence strategies? Floral and faunal remains may be present, as may pollen and phytoliths. Each of these data sets may contribute significant information, depending on their context and association. It was our goal to explore those samples which were clearly and convincingly associated with a documented site component.

Proposed Field Investigations

General Information

The previously stripped areas were still open, allowing the features and post holes recorded in 1994 to be re-evaluated. We realized, however, that the stripped areas would need to be lightly graded to remove the vegetation which has grown in the open areas in the past year and half. This was accomplished the first day on-site and allowed for an overview of the site and its features. Vertical and horizontal control was to be maintained by reference to one or more permanent lot marker(s) if the original Brockington datum could no longer be identified.

All excavations would be by machine stripping, followed by shovel skimming where necessary to expose or better define features. We anticipated providing the equipment foreman with an overview of the areas to be stripped and allowing him to establish the best locations for stockpiling of removed soil. Since the site is situated in an open field with sandy soils, we anticipated that only one area would be graded, fully exposed, and recorded at a time. This, we hoped, would minimize problems with soil drying. To further assist in the accurate identification of features it would be necessary to have a water supply on-site throughout the excavation.

As features (excepting post holes) are identified they were to be cleaned and photographed using both black and white negative film and color transparency film. Since we anticipated a large number of features, we were to use a "mug board" to avoid duplication of numbers and assure photographic control. After being photographed each feature would be drawn and its center point will be tied into the site's horizontal and vertical control point. At this stage an effort would be made to categorize features by content, size, and shape. This would help guide decisions on sampling pit contents. The center point of each pit was to be marked with an orange pin flag labeled with the feature number.

While ideally feature excavation should be undertaken at the conclusion of the stripping, we thought that the project time schedule will not allow this and that features would need to be sampled concurrently with stripping operations. Consequently, we proposed to initially excavate only half of each feature. Once half the feature was exposed it would be cleaned and photographed using both black and white negative film and color transparency film. The feature profile would be drawn and a new plan drawing of the excavated portion would be made. As we began to have a larger sample of features, become more familiar

with their contents, and establish a better classificatory scheme, some features might be passed over and not sampled. Feature fill would be screened through ¼-inch mesh.

Flotation samples (typically 5 gallons in size) were to be collected from features which exhibited a high potential for the recovery of ethnobotanical remains. These typically include hearth areas or dark organic trash refuse areas. We have found from past experience that routine flotation of samples is not cost-effective -- they simply don't provide samples large enough for meaningful analysis. It is better to search for samples which are likely to produce good samples of food remains than to float materials by rote in the hope of finding adequate samples. A mechanical water flotation process was to be used and, if the water source permitted, was to be conducted in the field. We have found that this process maximizes the opportunity for the recovery of additional fill if necessary (i.e., if it is especially rich in floral remains or, alternatively, if it is a very poor producer of carbonized material). A one-quart soil sample is also collected from each provenience for future soil chemistry needs. Depending on the nature of the features we also collected pollen and phytolith samples.

Specific Areas Stripped

Brockington and Associates recommended stripping in four areas: approximately 11,400 ft² to expose the posited palisade lines, approximately 13,000 ft² to expose the multiple ditch-like features, approximately 16,900 ft² to expose the structural remains in the village core, and up to an additional 8,300 ft² as necessary. We examined these recommendations at the time of preparing our proposal and largely concurred, although we recognized that it was difficult, based on the current level of information, to project with accuracy these needs.

We suggested five discrete areas, labeled A-E on Figure 3. Areas A-C were designed to trace out the posited palisade lines. Area A was anticipated to measure about 100 by 25 feet (for a total of 2,500 ft²). Area B would measure about 25 feet square (for a total of 625 ft²). Area C would measure 200 by 35 feet (for a total of 7,000 ft²). This would leave an additional 1,325 ft² for expansion of the palisade search, if necessary. Area D, which we anticipated to measure about 200 by 50 feet for a total of 10,000 ft², would explore the multiple ditch-like features. This would leave about 3,000 ft² for additional expansions, should more work in this area be necessary. Area E, situated in the central core of the site, would encompass an area measuring 200 by 75 feet, for a total of 15,000 ft². This would leave in abeyance an additional 1,900 ft² should further expansion be necessary.

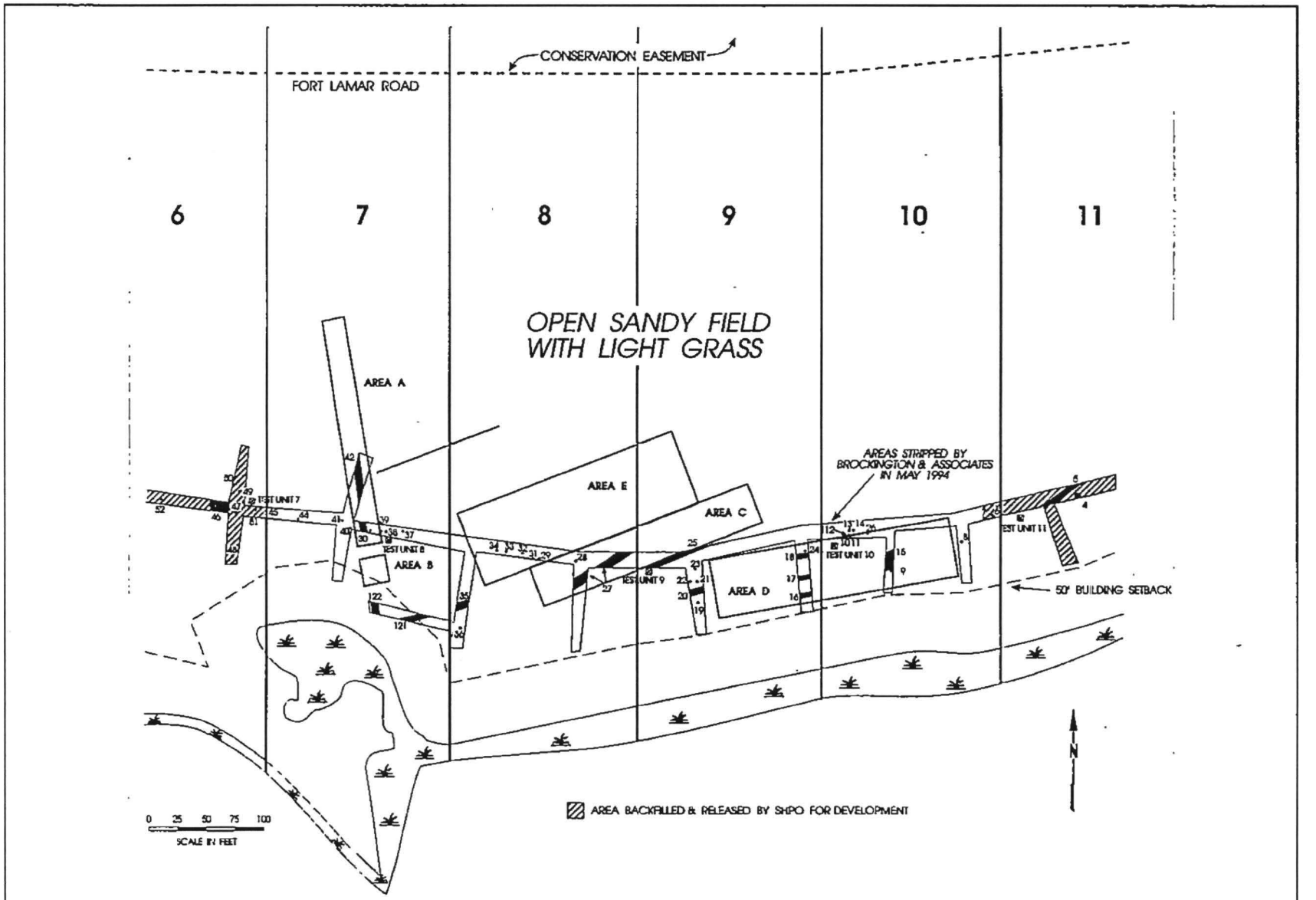

Figure 3. Areas mechanically stripped by Brockington and Associates in 1994 combined with areas proposed for further stripped.

EXCAVATIONS AT 38CH1456

Site Preparation

Upon arrival the site was as last seen in June. It was covered with light grass and the previously stripped areas were still open, although also largely covered in grass. The first activity was to have these previously stripped areas re-opened by removing the grass and approximately 0.1 to 0.2 foot of soil. This allowed the previously plotted features to be re-identified.

Fortuitously, a flagged nail designated Reference Point 2 was identified in the central portion of the site. Although not shown on the original Brockington and Associates base map, we believe this represents one of several reference points they established to plot the stripped areas and associated features. This point was made the primary reference point for the current study. Since we were not sure if the original work was based on a magnetic north grid or some other technique, we tied this nail into a more permanent point (a nail embedded in the paved entrance to lots 9 and 10 off Fort Lamar Road at a distance of 510.8 feet and a bearing of N0°34'05"E). This baseline was used for distance and bearing measurements to all stripped areas. The point off Fort Lamar Road was assigned an assumed elevation (AE) of 10.00 feet and all elevations at the site were taken in relation to this point. During the course of the work a series of elevations were collected from across the field necessary to produce a topographic map of the site area. In general we found that the elevations are generally level, although there is a slight rise toward the marsh edge, probably reflecting the earthworks and their subsequent plowing.

The initial testing cuts were assigned numbers. Cut 1 represented the long east-west cut parallel to the marsh edge. Cut 2 was the only one running north from Cut 1. Cuts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 ran south from Cut 1 and were numbered from west to east. Cut 5 ran west off the end of Cut 4, back toward Cut 3 (see Figures 3 and 4). As the work progressed, we began to have difficulties matching projected feature lines and eventually discovered that there were minor errors in the site base map. Once the base map was replotted and drawn, it was possible to get the various features to match up over relatively long distances (Figure 4).

Mechanical Stripping

Our efforts to coordinate stripping areas, stockpiling soil, and shovel skimming small areas turned out to be somewhat more difficult than anticipated, especially as the research design began to be radically altered by the middle of the second week. Consequently, we found that we were forced to move spoil on several occasions. Since all stripped areas (discussed below) were associated with currently exposed areas, we thought it would be relatively easy to maintain depth control. This was, in general correct. Of course, those familiar is dozer operation realize that "level" is a relative term. It is considerably easier to maintain level operation on long straight cuts than in short areas, especially if the equipment must negotiate spoil piles. Nevertheless, we were fortunate to have an excellent operator and although there was some variation in depth, no serious problems were encountered. One or more archaeologists were present during the stripping to oversee the work and suspend grading should unanticipated materials be encountered.

We also discovered that small bulldozers are generally unsatisfactory for site stripping. The equipment available for this study was able to move relatively small quantities of soil and once overloaded would begin to spin its tracks in the loose sand, creating disturbed areas needing extensive flat shoveling. A significant amount of time was spent cleaning up behind the dozer. Clearly, site stripping is better achieved by either larger equipment or through the use of a rubber tired grader.

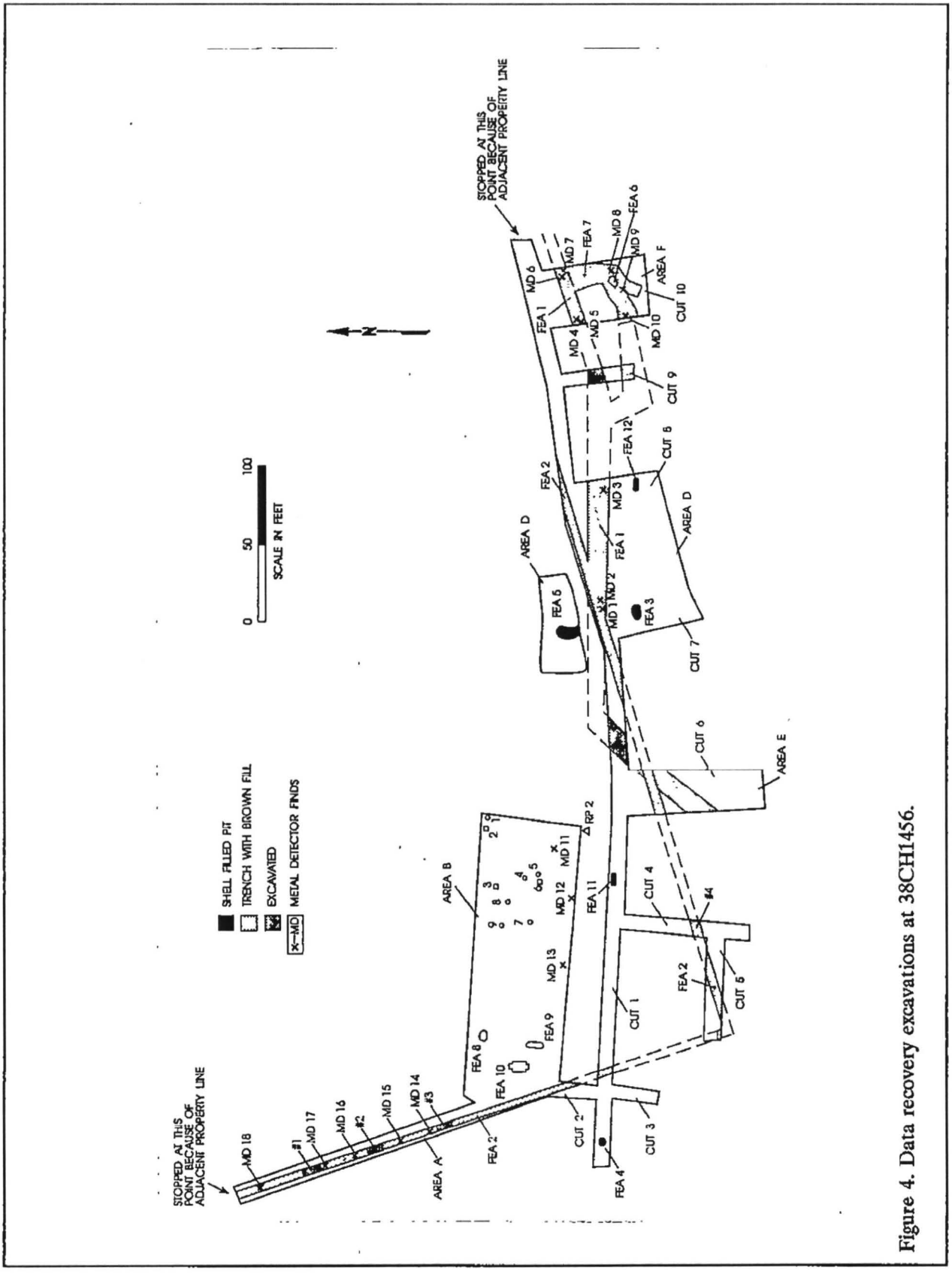

Figure 4. Data recovery excavations at 38CH1456.

As it developed, even the small dozer being used in this work was able to more quickly open areas than we were able to shovel skim them and plot features. An effort was made to mark feature locations and return to them later, but we found this did not appreciably speed up the operation. As a result, most of the mechanical soil removal was accomplished within the first two weeks. We did have water access at the site, a well with about 30 to 50 psi pressure. This was adequate for most operations, although even with constant spraying the site became very dry. The loose sands were powdery and preserving features was difficult.

Area A was placed to trace the posited palisade line northward. The cut was eventually 15 feet in width and 240 feet in length, exposing a total of 3600 square feet. What became designated as Feature 2 was found to extend the entire length of this exposure as a very straight line of dark soil with occasional pockets of dense shell. No other features were encountered in Area A, although several burned trees were found. The cut was terminated at its north end close to the western edge of Lot 7. The property beyond this had been released by the SC SHPO and had recently been purchased. It was therefore not possible to determine how far Feature 2 extends northward.

Area B was placed just north of the original east-west Cut 1 by Brockington and it was initially intended to explore what was thought to be the village area. The area measured 185 feet east-west and 70 feet north-south, resulting in an exposure of 12,950 square feet. We discovered that there was no evidence of a Mississippian village in this area. The eastern half, however, produced nine post holes, all of which were excavated. Six are round with pointed to rounded bottoms and depths of 0.3 to 1.1 feet below the subsoil. Three are square, ranging in size from about 0.6 foot square to 0.8 foot square and having depths of 0.2 to 0.7 foot below the subsoil (Figure 5). The three square post holes form two sides of a posited structure measuring 36 feet east-west by 30 feet north-south. No patterns were evidenced in the remaining post holes. The general absence of associated artifacts in this area suggests that this structure may have been utilitarian. In the western half of this area we encountered three features (Features 8, 9, and 10) which were eventually interpreted to represent a small cluster of Civil War related features — a Confederate soldier's semi-subterranean house, a second similar house which had never been completed, and a burn area where it appears trash was disposed of. Curiously, the area between these features and the post holes to the east is nearly devoid of cultural remains.

Area C was also placed just north of Brockington's original east-west Cut 1 and east of Area B. It measured 65 feet east-west by 25 feet north-south. Originally intended to explore additional palisade lines, by the time it was opened we were relatively sure that no palisades existed and our interest in this area was simply to expand on the exploration of interior areas begun in Area B. This stripped area produced no historic features, although a large shell-filled pit, designated Feature 5, was identified. A large quantity of animal bone and Thom's Creek pottery was recovered from the cleaning of this feature (Figure 6).

Area D was opened between Cuts 7 and 8, south of Cut 1, exposing an area measuring 85 by 60 feet for a total of 5,100 square feet. The goal in opening this area was to better understand the multitude of posited palisade lines originally reported by Brockington's test operations. This work was conducted toward the end of the first week and proved to be a watershed in our understanding of the site. Work cleaning Cut 1 revealed a single narrow trench-like feature extending along its northern edge for nearly 120 feet. This proved to be Feature 2, found previously in Area A. Area D revealed no series of narrow palisade lines, just a single, second trench, much wider but still containing a mixed fill of dark sand and occasionally dense shell. This was designated Feature 1 and was found to intrude into Feature 2 (Figure 7). South of Feature 1 Area D revealed only a single shell pit, Feature 3, and a rather amorphous smear of dark soil which could not be identified during this study.

Area E was equally important in focusing our understanding of the nature of this site. Situated west of Cut 6, it measured 30 feet in width and 90 feet in length, exposing an additional 2,700 square feet of site area. Area E allowed both

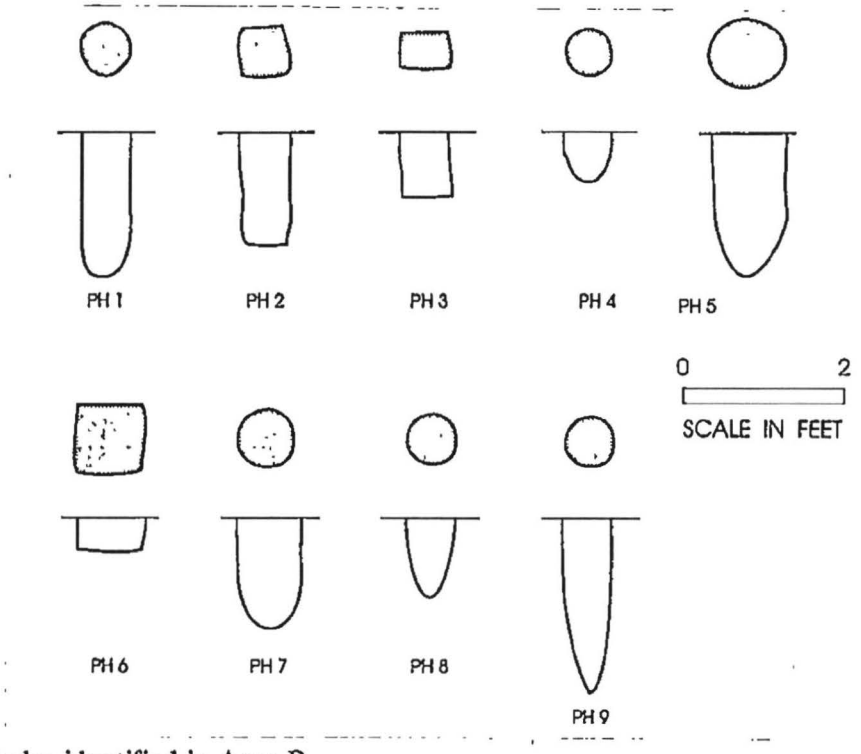

Figure 5. Postholes identified in Area B.

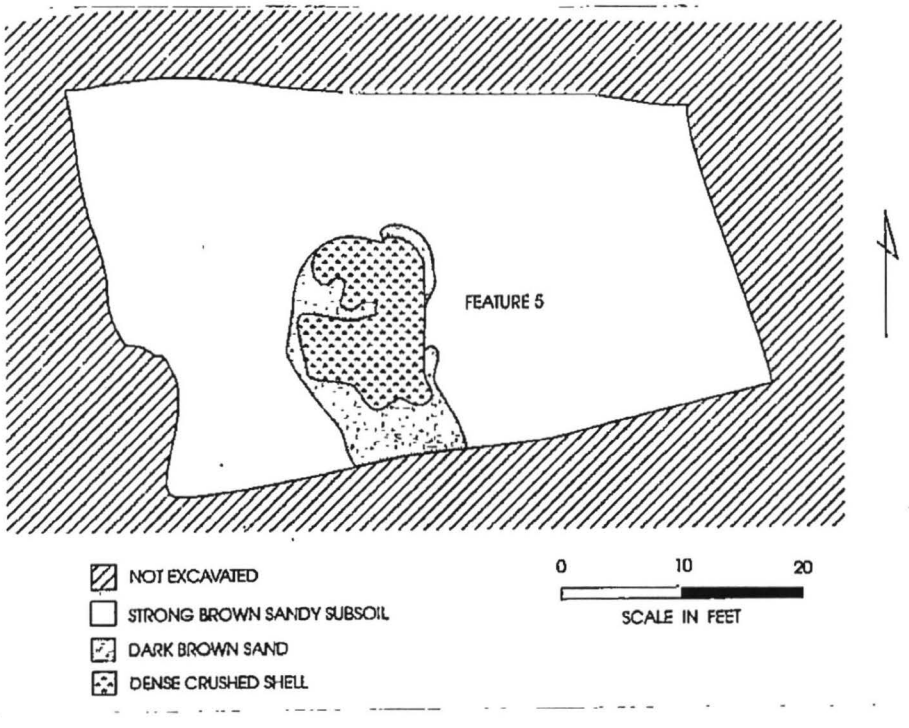

Figure 6. Feature 5 exposed in Area C.

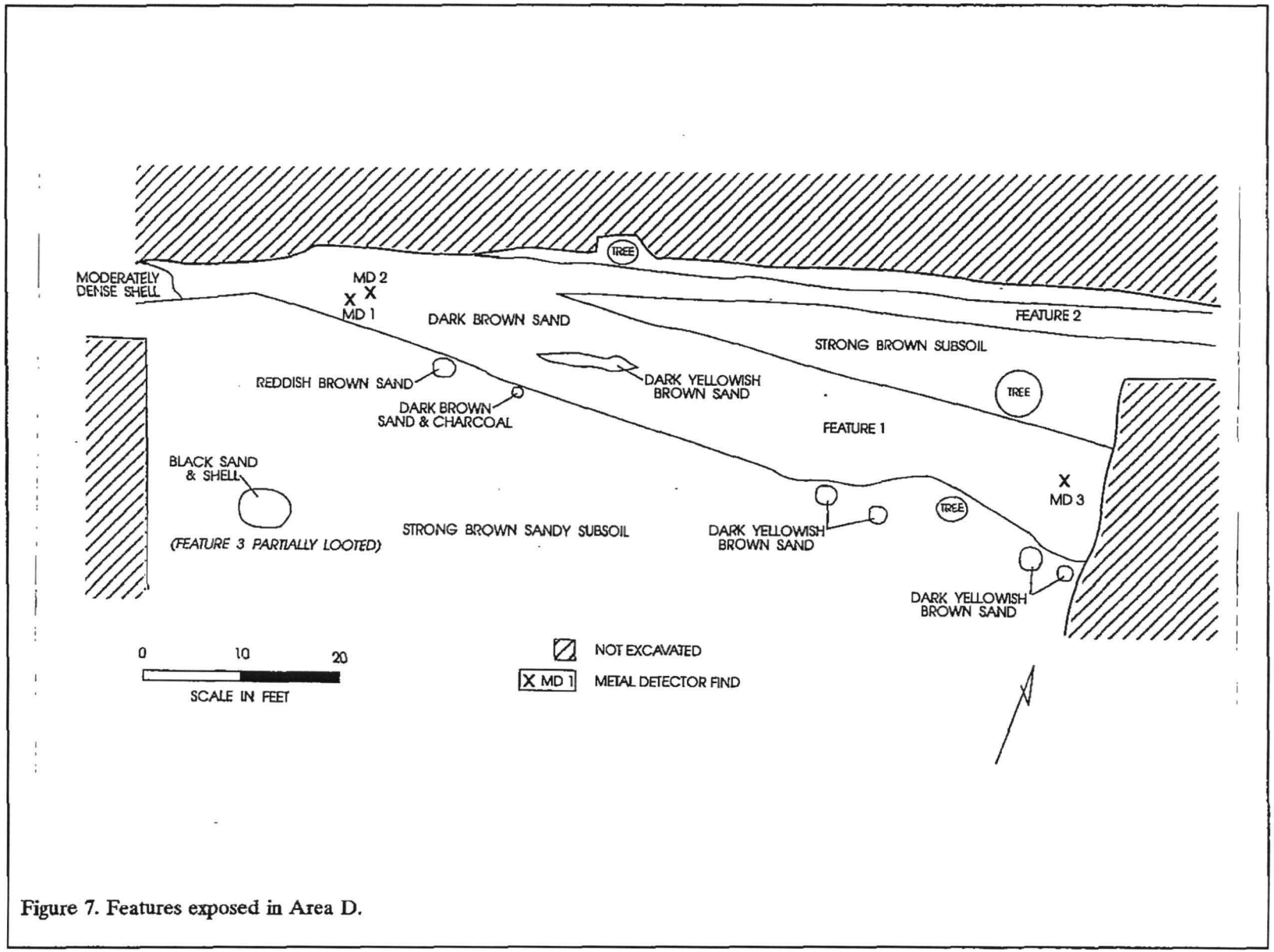

Figure 7. Features exposed in Area D.

Features 1 and 2 to be better defined and tracedfurther along their routes across the site. For Feature 2 it revealed that the ditch or trench followed a very straight and consistent course. For Feature 1 it, in conjunction with the cleaning of Cut 1, revealed that the wider trench turned southwestward just north of Cut 1 (see Figure 4).

Area F measured 35 feet north-south by 65 feet east-west and exposed 2,275 square feet at the eastern edge of the site, expanding Cut 10. Together with pre-existing Cut 9 this work revealed not only the extension of Feature 1, but also identified Feature 7, another wide trench. The bulldozer also exposed Feature 6, a burial of a small horse or donkey (Figure 8).

Artifacts from the Stripped Areas

As the stripped areas were being flat shoveled and features were being cleaned, small collections of surface material were collected. While no analysis has yet been conducted, prehistoric material clearly dominates the collection, with Late Archaic Thom's Creek pottery perhaps accounting for about 80% of the material. Mississippian wares continued to represent a minority of the pottery recovered. Historic material was rather scarce, consisting of a few whiteware ceramics, an occasional fragment of ginger beer bottle, and "black" glass.

A metal detector survey of the stripped areas was undertaken toward the end of the field work at the suggestion of the SC SHPO's archaeologist. While initially intended to explore the trench-like features, perhaps providing a guide to excavation, we expanded the work to include all of the stripped areas, hoping to identify additional features or perhaps recover artifacts missed in flat shoveling.

This work was conducted using a Tesoro Bandito II™ with an 8-inch concentric soil (electromagnetic type operating at 10KHz). The instrument has the capability to operate in either an all metal mode or discriminate mode (which eliminates ferrous metal response). The all metal mode is the industry standard VFL type which does not require motion of the search coil for proper operation. The discriminate mode is based on motion of the search coil, but allows control over the detector's response to ferrous metals. Since the goal of this work was to explore the density of *all* artifacts, not just to locate military items (such as brass buttons or lead ammunition), the instrument was operated in an all metal mode.

The metal detector survey resulted in identifying 18 "hits," each of which was flagged, plotted, and eventually excavated. As shown by Figure 4, these finds were rather isolated, with five occurring in Feature 1, five occurring in Feature 7, three occurring in Area B, and five occurring in Area A (all of which were nail fragments). Clearly metal items are most closely associated with various trenches, although even here they are rather uncommon. Military items were limited to several fired bullets and a fragment of artillery shell.

Features

We found, rather quickly, that the anticipated quantity of features did not materialize. Those identified were flagged. When an area was cleaned off and all features were found, each one was more carefully cleaned by troweling, was photographed, and finally drawn. Otherwise, the elaborate procedures in place for feature identification and recordation were abandoned as unnecessary after the first week.

Although the number of features anticipated never materialized, many features were very large. For example, one the ditch features was found to consist of 710 lineal feet. In such cases we sampled features in an effort to get an idea of how these features might vary spatially. This sampling was typically done in a subjective fashion with an eye toward exploring different site areas. An effort was made to use a metal detector on the historic trenches in order to target areas with numerous metal readings for excavation, but no such areas could be identified.

We also employed both ¼- and ⅛-inch mesh for screening feature fill. The bulk of the fill was waterscreened, although some sections of trench fill were hand screened. In practice, we found few features suitable for flotation. A 5-gallon flotation sample was collected from one historic

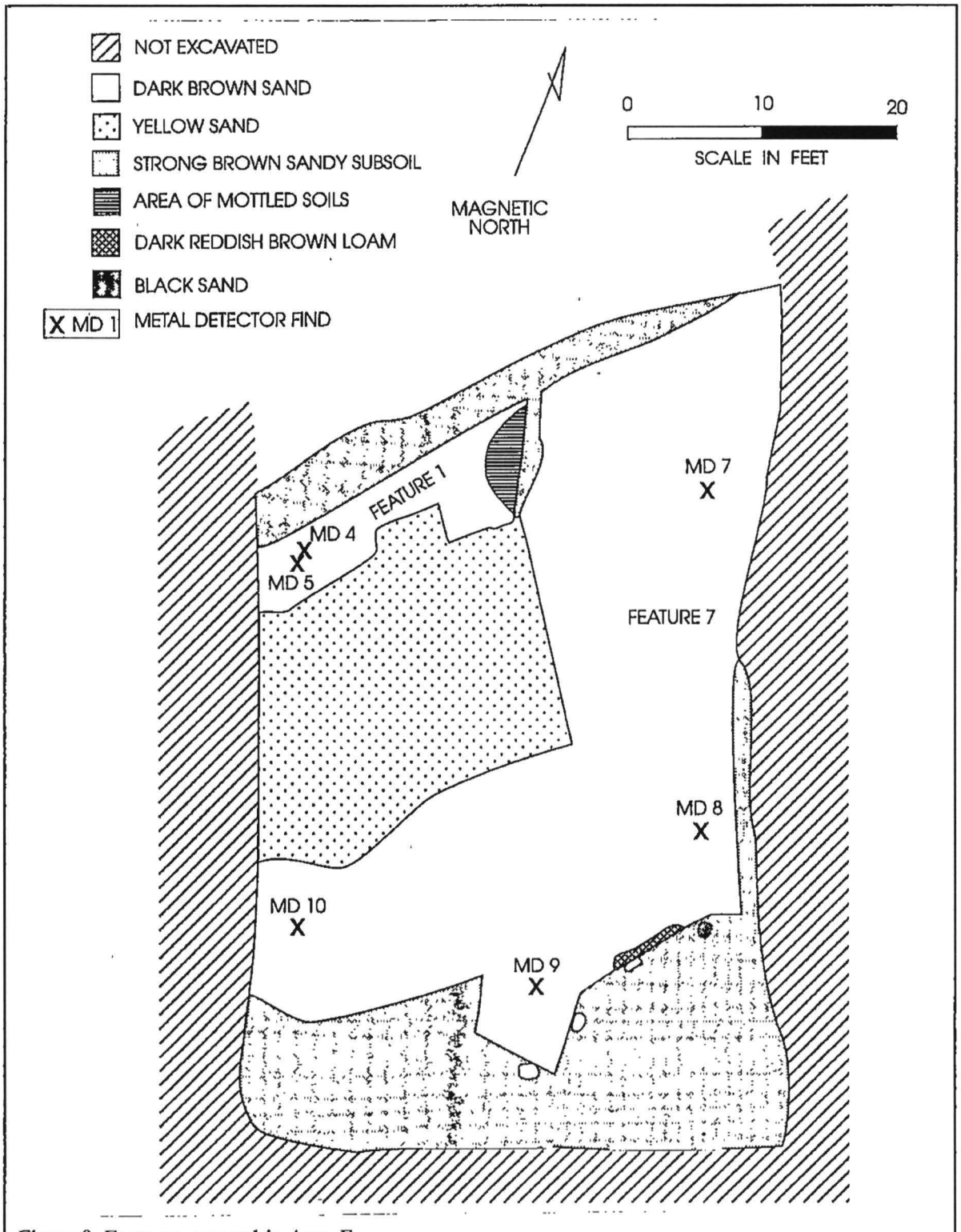

Figure 8. Features exposed in Area F.

feature (Feature 8), but was not floated in the field. As will be discussed in a following section, a very large portion of one prehistoric shell pit (Feature 5) was floated in the field. Field flotation was difficult because of the distance from the water source and the greatly reduced water pressure.

Feature 1 was encountered (from west to east) in Area E, Cut 1, Area D, Cut 9, and Area F. It represents a relatively wide trench, varying from about 9 to 12 feet. Fill was also variable, with sections almost appearing to be composed of shell midden, while other sections consisted of a dark brown sand with only scattered shell. Although close to 400 feet of this feature could be projected, only 195 feet were actually exposed by the stripping. The size was far in excess of what might be expected for a palisade. In addition, the early shovel skimming produced a small collection of historic artifacts recovered from the fill, including nails, fragments of barrel bands, and "black" glass — items which clearly were too late for a Mississippian feature, but which strongly suggested a military occupation. When this feature was compared with the map of the Secessionville Water Batteries produced by General Q.A. Gillmore after the works fell into Union hands (Figure 9), there were strong similarities. In order to tie our basemap to Gillmore's map, several map points were identified in the field, allowing one to overlay the other. We discovered that Feature 1 was a nearly exact match to the earthworks plotted by Gillmore.

Two areas were selected for excavation — a portion in Cut 1 and a section in Cut 9 — representing about 25 lineal feet or a 12.8% sample of the entire trench. These two areas were selected to provide sections from two widely separated areas. Excavation was conducted by hand with the fill screened through ¼-inch mesh.

The first section excavated, from Cut 1, was the wider of the two and revealed a relatively wide interior ledge on the "outside" face of the earthworks and a much narrower step on the "inside" face (Figure 10). The trench was 4.5 feet in depth. The profile reveals that some loose sand remained in the earthwork after construction, but that it was relatively well maintained. There is, for example, no evidence of lensed fill at the base, revealing that it had been kept clean and not allowed to fill in. Above the base, however, there is evidence of lensing suggesting that after the Civil War the trench, while open, was no longer being maintained and water washed sand was gradually being deposited. Above this lens, there are a series of discrete "loads" of soil which we interpret as rapid backfilling. This is consistent with the oral history collected by Butler, who notes that, "at some point during the early twentieth century, the majority of the earthworks along the eastern and southern perimeter of the peninsula were leveled because 'they were obstructing the summer breezes' (Fred Martschink, personal communication, 1992)" (Butler 1994:53). The clear differences in the soil, however, suggests that several sources were being used for backfill and that the work was perhaps being done by hand.

The second section, from Cut 9, revealed a trench only 8 feet in width. This narrowing, although not shown by Gillmore, may reflect the earthwork's peripheral location. Alternatively, it may simply reflect the natural variation in hand-dug entrenchments. This section also revealed that the ledge was wider on the "inside" face than on the "outside." The trench in this area was only 4.5 feet in depth, suggesting that as the earthworks were extended to the east they became less massive and more reliance was placed on the marsh being a deterrent. The profile of this excavated section reveals a very homogenous brown sand and shell fill, suggesting that the pit was quickly filled using soil already partially mixed by the initial construction. It also suggests that the filling may have been mechanical.

In spite of the differences, the two excavated sections are very similar and are entirely consistent with the Civil War earthwork shown by Gillmore. Artifacts within the fill of both sections are almost entirely prehistoric — representing the remains originally excavated by the Civil War soldiers and eventually replaced in the trenches. Like both the surface collections and the stripped areas, Thom's Creek pottery was most common, although small quantities of other pottery was present. Historic materials were uncommon, revealing that military discipline prevented soldiers from using these earthworks as convenient receptacles for their trash. Although small

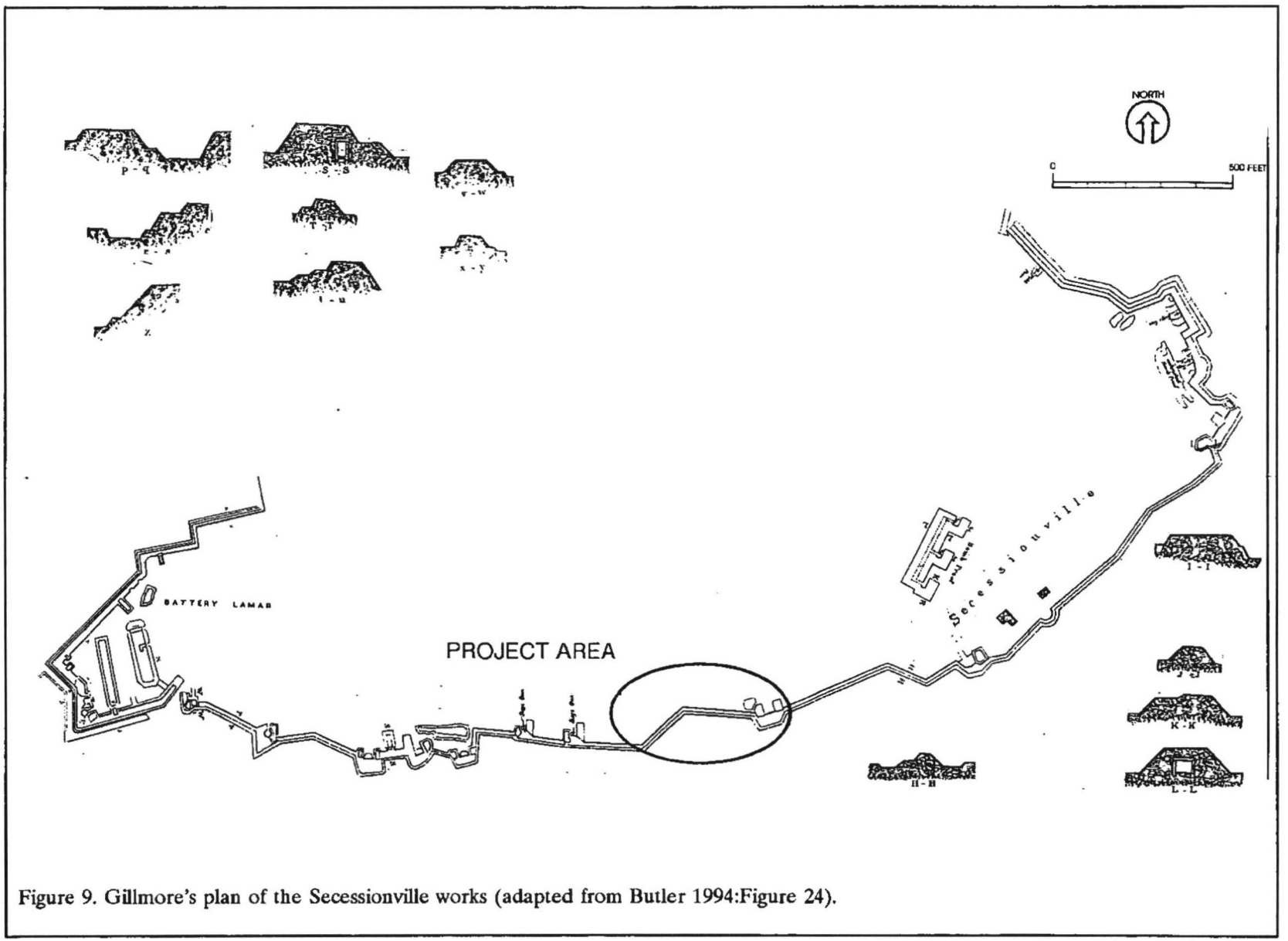

Figure 9. Gillmore's plan of the Secessionville works (adapted from Butler 1994:Figure 24).

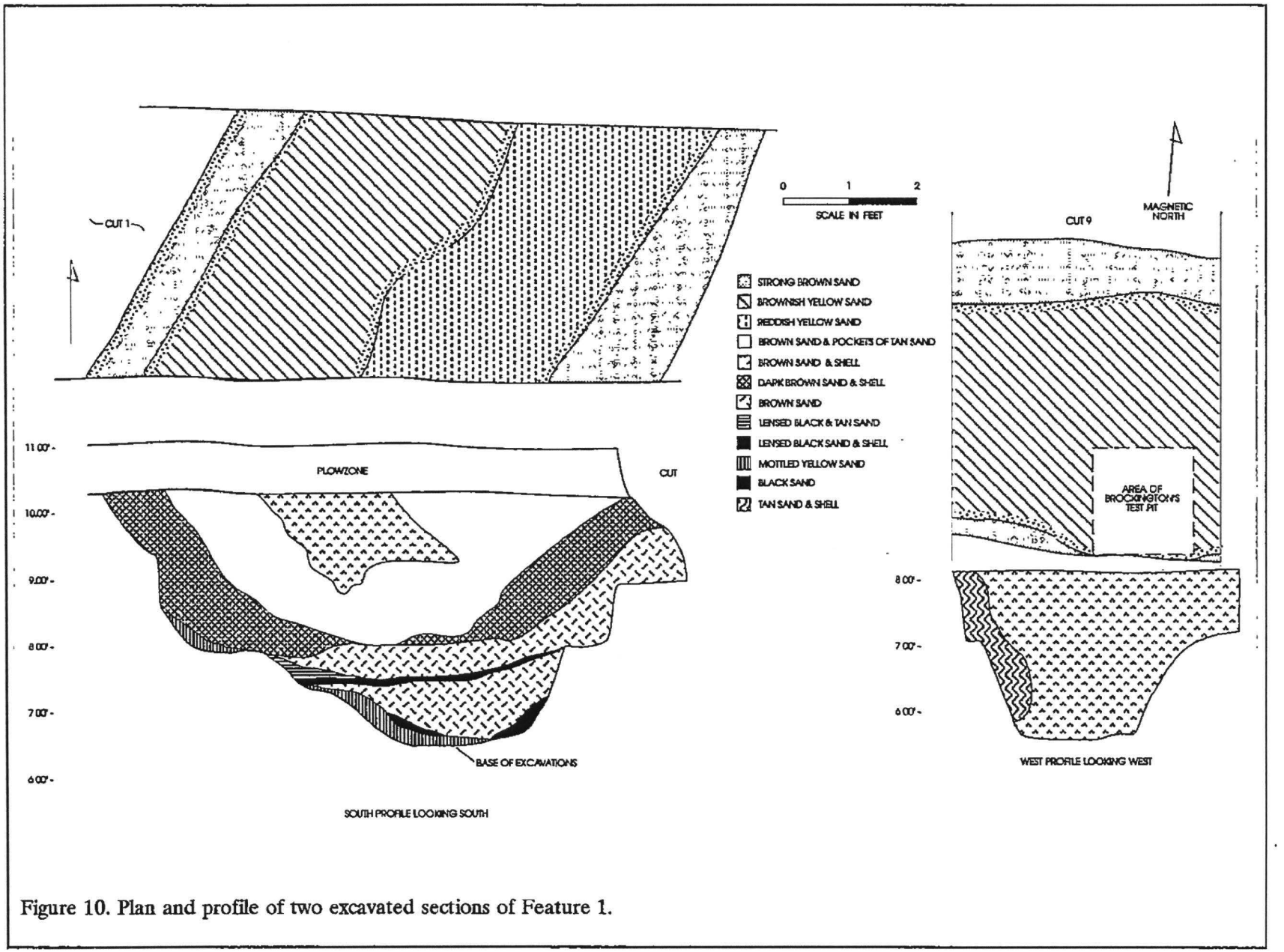

Figure 10. Plan and profile of two excavated sections of Feature 1.

quantities of animal bone, broken glass, and occasional nails were encountered, the ditches were not used to their full potential.

Feature 2 originates off the study tract and extends south-southeast down the entire length of Area A, through Cut 2, across Cut 1, and turns a 90° corner just south of Cut 5, extending east-northeast through Cut 5, across Cut 4 and Area E, re-entering Cut 1 and following it until just past Area D (see Figure 4). The eastern terminus for the feature is not known since it extends off the study tract. The feature was projected for a total of 710 feet, although only 425 feet were actually exposed by the excavations. The feature consists of a narrow trench or ditch, varying from about 2.5 to 4 feet in width. As elevations were plotted and compared, we realized that the ditch appears narrower in those areas where the stripping went slightly deeper. Consequently, the feature width probably averages between 3 and 4 feet. The fill of this feature, like Feature 1, varied from a dark brown loamy sand to dense shell in a matrix of black sand. Shell content varied dramatically within any 20 foot section, with that segment in Cut 1 containing the densest shell.

Four distinct sections (designated 1-4) of this feature were excavated, representing an 8.7% sample of the exposed feature. Three of these were in Area A and one was placed in Cut 4. The focus on Area A was intended to help identify changes in the feature along one "path," in the hopes that this information would help define its function. Excavation was by hand with all fill either waterscreened or dry screened through ¼-inch mesh.

The fill was dominated by prehistoric artifacts, primarily Thom's Creek pottery. As previously mentioned, shell was variable — Section 1 produced 24 pounds of shell, Section 2 yielded 103 pounds, Section 3 produced only 4.5 pounds, and Section 4 produced 62 pounds. Few historic materials were found in any of the excavations, although their presence demonstrates that this feature was backfilled during the nineteenth century. The absence of military items suggests (but cannot conclusively demonstrate) that the feature was filled prior to the military occupation of Secessionville.

The feature was found to vary from about 2.0 feet to 0.6 foot in depth below the stripped surface (Figure 11). The basal elevations, however, are more revealing and suggest that the fall of the ditch was toward the southwest where the two legs join together. The profile consistently revealed one steep side and one more gradually sloping side — consistent with a ditch excavated by shovel. The fill throughout its length was a homogenous dark brown sand, although Section 3 also revealed several concentrations of shell in the fill.

Taken together, these data suggest that Feature 2 was a drainage ditch which had been kept relatively clean and open until it was very quickly filled in, probably with the original spoil which had been out of the ditch for a relatively long time. The most likely time for this backfilling to take place was when the Confederate troops took over Secessionville and began construction of Fort Lamar and the marsh batteries. The ditch may have served as drainage during periods of heavy rain, further ensuring the healthfulness of Secessionville for the planters.

Feature 3 was a shell pit measuring about 3 feet north-south by about 4 feet east-west found south of Features 1 and 2 in Area D. Material associated with the feature during cleaning suggests that it dated from the Thom's Creek Phase. Before this feature could be sampled it was looted over a weekend. The central core of the pit had been gutted out, with much of the fill dumped back into the hole. Given the disturbance to the feature we decided to undertake no further investigation.

Feature 4 was originally thought to represent a small shell pit situated at the western end of Cut 1. Its measurements were initially recorded as about 2.5 feet in diameter. Like Feature 3, the initial indications were that this might represent a Thom's Creek Phase shell steaming pit. When bisected with the east half removed, we realized that it represented a post hole which had collected a small quantity of midden in its central "slump." The post hole was found to be about 1.2 feet in diameter and 1.7 feet in depth (Figure 12). The west half was not removed.

Feature 5, a large scatter of crushed shell,

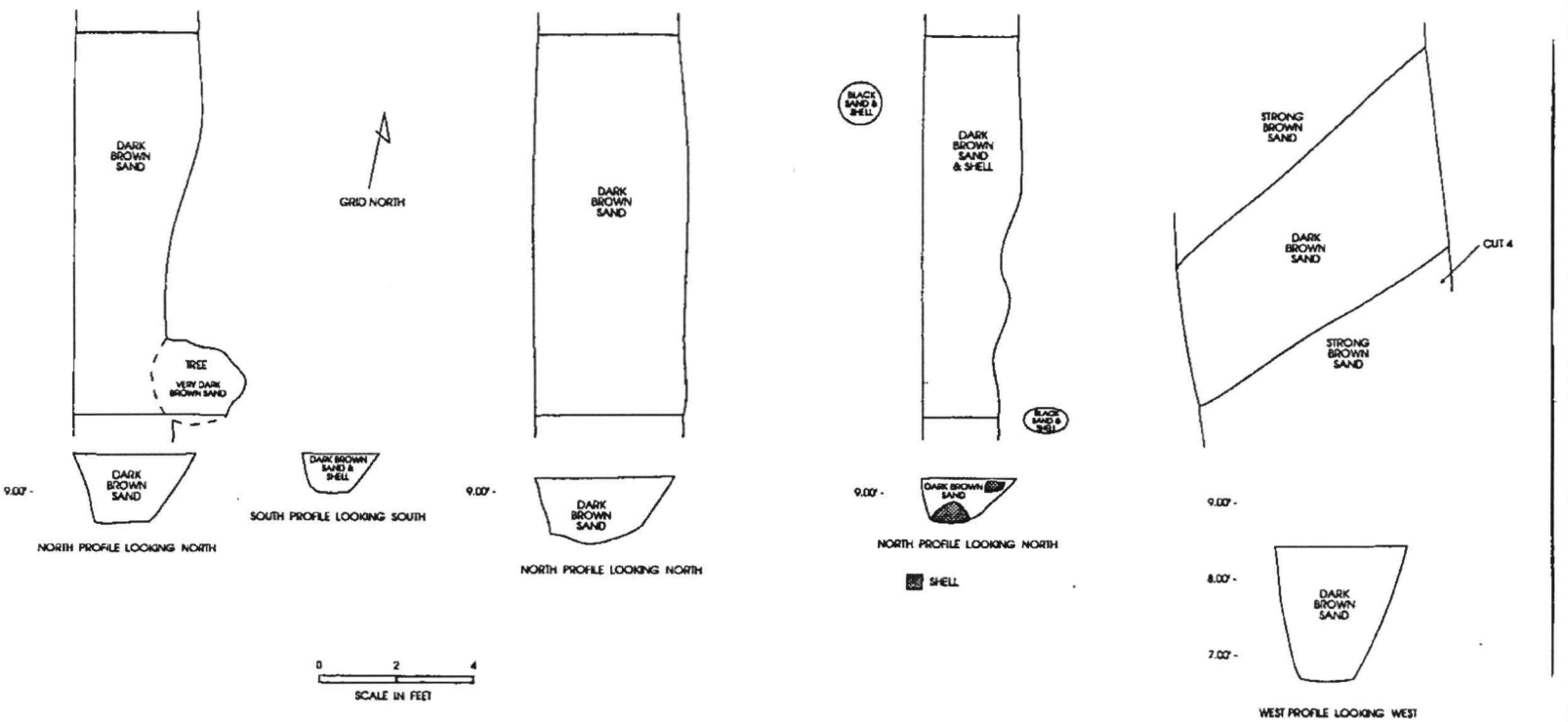

Figure 11. Plan and profile of four excavated sections of Feature 2.

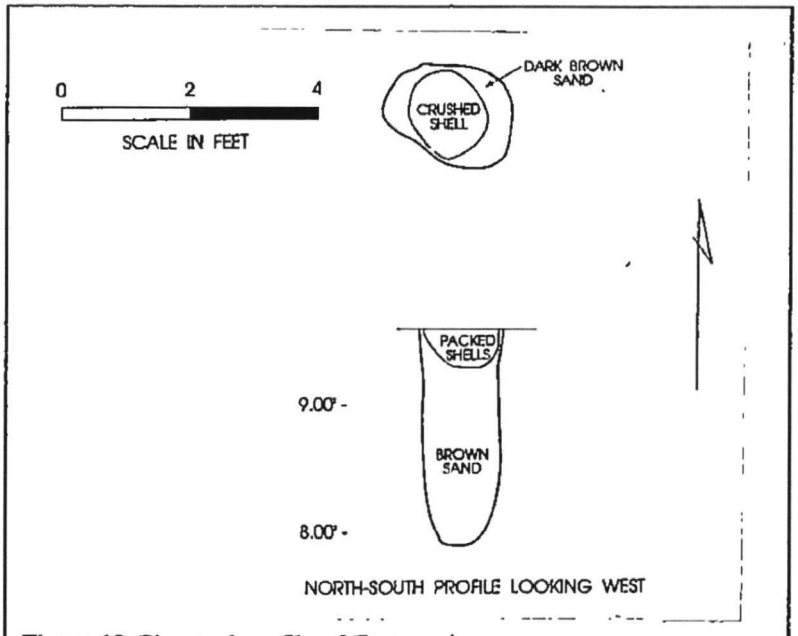

Figure 12. Plan and profile of Feature 4.

was found in Area C and was thought to represent perhaps as many two or three shellfish steaming pits. It was initially recorded as covering an area measuring about 38 by 23 feet (Figure 6). During the initial cleaning a large quantity of fish bone, Thom's Creek pottery, and deer antler were collected from the area. This feature was recognized as perhaps the best preserved prehistoric feature recovered from the excavations at 38CH1456.

The feature was bisected with only the east half being excavated. The fill was removed in two very distinct levels — the upper Level 1 fill consisted of dense, crushed shell, while the lower Level 2 fill consisted of brown to black soil with only sparse soil. Within these two levels the profile revealed a variety of additional levels. The bulk of the crushed shell observed in the original plotting was found to represent one feature, although it appears that a second pit may extend southward under backdirt. The excavated portion revealed a pit measuring about 12.5 feet north-south by 12 feet east-west and 2.7 feet in depth. This excavation yielded approximately 141 cubic feet of fill. This very large quantity of material required that a sampling strategy be employed and even with sampling this feature required 49 person hours for excavation.

Of the 71.5 cubic feet of Level 1 material, 18.3 cubic feet or 25.2%, was subjected to water flotation. The heavy fraction was hand sorted, removing all pottery, animal bone, and heavy pieces of charcoal. This heavy fraction was then weighed (346 pounds) and discarded. The vast majority of the animal bone recovered was fish, primarily fish vertebra and otoliths. The light fraction yielded a relatively small quantity of charcoal and the only recognizable remains were hickory nutshell. An additional 7.3 cubic feet or 10.2% of the Level 1 fill was subjected to waterscreening through ⅛-inch mesh. Artifacts and animal bone were hand sorted from the waterscreening in the field and the remaining shell was weighed (122 pounds) and discarded. The remainder of the Level 1 fill (64.3% of that from the eastern half) was screened through ¼-inch mesh. As might be imagined, animal bone recovery was minimal and only pottery was recovered. The resulting shell was weighed (1320 pounds) and discarded.

In addition to this work, a 21.5 pound sample of the heavy fraction shell (representing a 6.2% sample) was sorted and weighed by species. For this particular feature we found that only 9.3% was oyster, 11.6% was clam, 7.0 was the common cockle, and 2.3% was whelk (primarily *Busycon carica* although one specimen of *Busycon canaliculatum* was identified). Periwinkle accounted for 23.3% of the sample. Although identifiable fragments of stout tagelus and ribbed mussel accounted for less than 1% of the sample, they represented almost all of the small fragments — accounting for 46.5% of the sample. Very minor constituents included angel wing and moon snail. This revealed that the shellfish most heavily represented by this subsistence episode were periwinkles, stout tagelus, and ribbed mussel, probably in about equal proportions.

Of the 69.5 cubic feet of Level 2 material, 18.3 cubic feet or 26.3%, was subjected to water flotation. The heavy fraction was hand sorted, which took considerably less effort than Level 1, weighed (8 pounds) and discarded. While fish was

still the dominant animal bone recovered, the quantity had declined dramatically from Level 1. The light fraction also contained a larger quantity of charcoal, with numerous large pieces of wood charcoal and hickory nutshell being recovered. An additional 18.3 cubic feet (26.3%) of Level 2 was subjected to ⅛-inch water screening. Artifacts and bone were again hand sorted and the remaining shell was weighed (13 pounds) and discarded. The remainder of the Level 2 fill (47.4% of that from the eastern half was screened through ¼-inch mesh. Only 28 pounds of shell was recovered, less than anticipated based on the waterscreening and flotation. This is likely because so much of the shell was finely crushed and passed through the ¼-inch mesh.

These samples of Level 1 and 2 fill will allow us to compare the faunal recovery effectiveness of flotation heavy fraction to that of ⅛-inch waterscreening and will also allow the evaluation of faunal reconstructions derived from these two distinct recovery methods. Our goal here is to evaluate the effectiveness, and appropriateness of the two techniques on Thom's Creek sites. In addition, the flotation of a large quantity of fill — far beyond the typical 5-gallon sample (which is approximately equal to 0.7 cubic foot) — will allow us to gauge the benefits of larger flotation samples.

The profile of Feature 5 was, in itself, revealing (Figure 13). Two distinct zones can be discerned in Level 1. One consists of crushed shell and gray sand and this lies on top of a lens of crushed shell and yellow sand. These two likely represent different discard episodes. The lighter colored sand in the lower of the two suggests that this refuse was quickly covered up and had little opportunity for organic matter to become introduced. Both zones, however, also exhibit clearly defined pockets of specific shell species. The uppermost level, for example, includes a distinct pocket or concentration of periwinkles, while the lower level reveals three such concentrations — one of periwinkles, one of periwinkles and stout tagelus, and one of only stout tagelus. Each of these pockets likely represents discard from a single collection or processing episode, although all may well have been consumed during the same meal.

The dark sand below, termed Level 2, included three distinct zones. At the base of the feature is a band of light brown sand, likely representing the loose sand in the base of the hole after it was initially excavated. This lens was found to have virtually no shell and no pottery. Above this is a thicker band of black sand which contains some shell and abundant charcoal. It likely represents the remains of the fire used to steam the shellfish. It is found raked or pushed up to one side of the pit, suggesting that an effort had been made to move it out of the way or to possibly concentrate the heat on one side of the pit. Above this was the third lens — a zone of brown sand with noticeable, although still sparse, shell. This likely represents the soil thrown over the coals to separate them from the shellfish (otherwise the shellfish would have been fired, not steamed).

Based on field observations, all of the pottery from this pit appears to represent Thom's Creek Plain or possibly Thom's Creek Finger Smoothed specimens. The presence of abundant charcoal from the pit will allow at least one radiocarbon date to be obtained.

Feature 6, a donkey burial, was found during the bulldozing operations in Area F. Fragments of bone were noted after a pass and this area was excluded from additional stripping. As a result, the only loss was the skull and left mandible, although the left foreleg was badly damaged. No artifacts were associated with this burial, which occurs in the fill of Feature 7. This indicated that the animal was buried during the filling of the feature and suggests that it post-dates the Civil War.

Feature 7 represents a ditch surrounding a gun emplacement shown on Gillmore's map for this area of the site. The eastern third of the feature was exposed in Area F and a small portion was also found in Cut 9 (Figures 4 and 8). Since the Feature 1 and 2 ditches were all poor producers of artifacts this feature was not sampled.

Feature 8 was found in the western third of Area B and consisted of a somewhat amorphous smear of gray ash, burned sand, and charcoal. During troweling, the feature produced a quantity of calcined animal bone and a number of burned

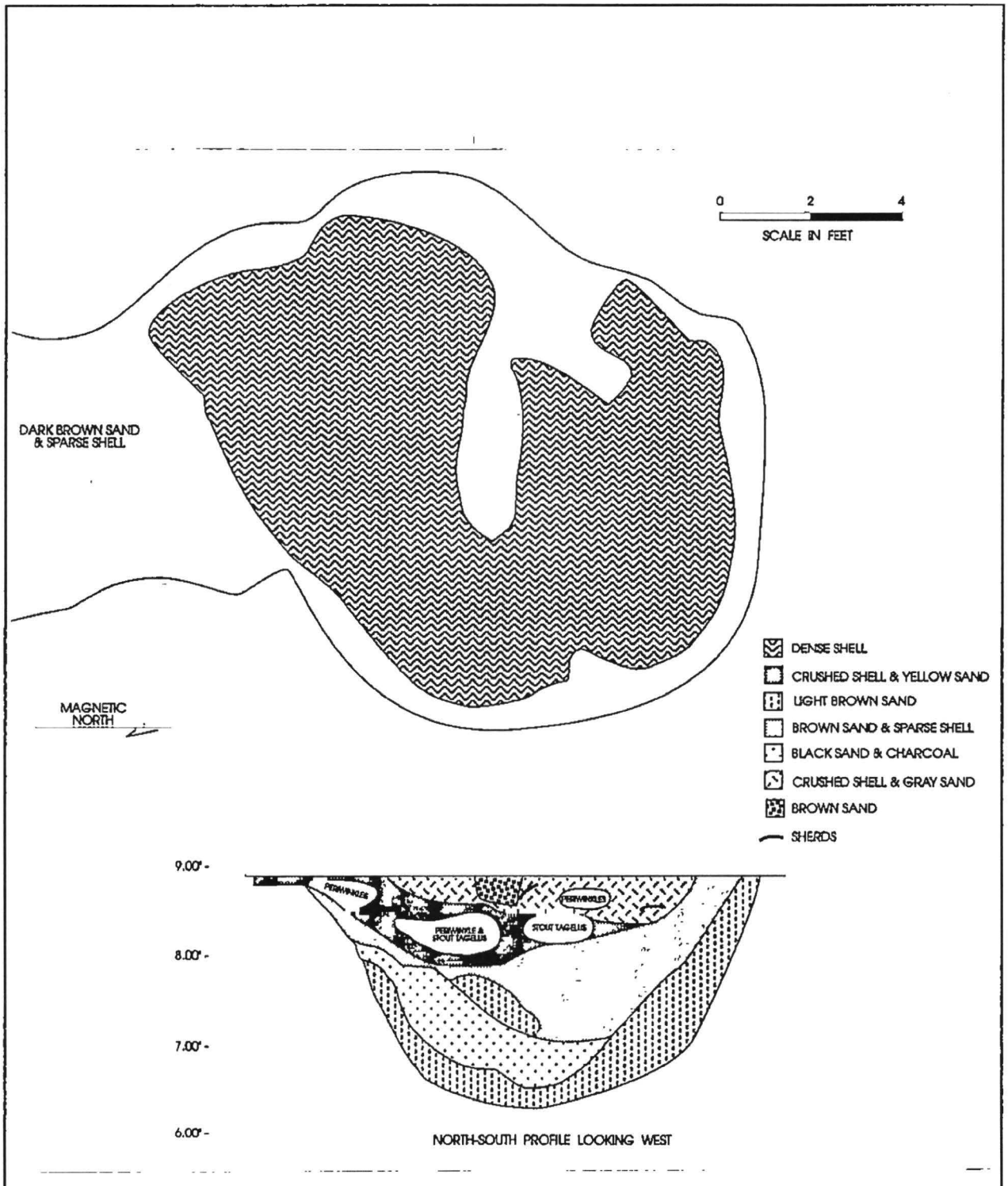

Figure 13. Plan and profile of Feature 5.

machine cut nails, as well as several ceramic fragments. Upon excavation the feature was found to be only 0.3 foot in depth and to have a shallow basin-like shape (Figure 14). The fill was waterscreened through ⅛-inch mesh. The most abundant material is bone — much, although not all, being calcined. The bone color varies from gray to white, suggesting variable periods of time at temperatures higher than 1472° F (800° C). The cracking and longitudinal splitting (with no evidence of transverse fracture lines and warping) reveal that there was probably no flesh on the bone when it burned and that it was not green.

The presence of burned nails and one burned fragment of what appears to be 1-inch lumber, suggests that scavenged lumber was a common source of fuel. The presence of large quantities of animal bone suggests that trash gathered up in the Fort Lamar camp may have been burned. This feature seems to represent a trash disposal area. Its proximity, downwind, from Features 9 and 10 suggest that these features all represent a nucleus of military activity.

Feature 9 was also identified in Area B, about 35 feet south of Feature 8 and 15 feet southeast of Feature 10. The feature consisted of a linear smear of brown sand, sparse shell, and animal bone over an area measuring 13 feet north-south by 4.5 feet east-west. The feature was bisected with the east half removed. The fill was dry screened through ¼-inch mesh and the work revealed a somewhat saucer-like pit 1.3 feet in depth (Figure 15). Animal bone was found in the upper 0.3 foot, but below that depth the fill was entirely sterile. The profile reveals a series of what appear to be distinct loads of soil — some dark brown, others yellow, and still others brown — all swirled together.

This feature defied interpretation until Feature 10 had been excavated. It was not a trash pit — there were essentially no artifacts. It was not a tree — the fill and shape were both entirely inconsistent with this interpretation. We even considered that it might be where ordinance exploded, but it seemed unlikely that the crater would be linear. After Feature 10 was examined, however, Feature 9 was re-evaluated. We believe that it may represent the beginning excavations for a structure such as Feature 10. Never completed it was quickly backfilled and trash collected only where the feature slumped as the soil compacted.

Feature 10, found in Area B, represents a semi-subterranean structure (Figure 16). It is oriented almost due north-south (N4°W), with its opening to the south and its firebox at the northern end. The structure measures 9 feet in width and 17.8 feet in width, although the floor area measures only 9 by 12 feet, for a total of 108 square feet. The entranceway is about four feet in width and the floor slopes gradually down to the hearth and firebox area. The floor in the center of the structure was about 1.0 foot below the stripped surface and about 2.5 feet below the ground level. The side walls are typically straight and the only deviation is along the southeastern wall where there is a slight ledge. The doorway floor appears to have been a gradually sloping ramp into the room. The floor consisted of a very hard packed brown sand which consisted of waterwashed sands. At the north end of this structure the floor revealed a multitude of small dark circles. Larger than characteristic of worm or insect activity, and much smaller and better defined than typical of roots, these may reflect leaks from the roof. There are identical ledges or notches at the interior corners of the firebox, perhaps revealing the location of vertical chimney supports. Along the outer sides of the chimney or firebox area there are also ledges which are probably where the chimney stack rested. As previously mentioned, the center of the firebox is burned. At the outer edge of the firebox, toward the living space, there was a row of highly fragmented brick, perhaps representing the hearth edge. Outside the structure, at its south end, two square post holes were encountered. These may represent posts supporting an entranceway tarp, or they may be more intimately associated with the structure's construction.

The feature was excavated as five zones. Zone 1 was the upper brown sand and shell fill. This almost certainly represents backfill after the abandonment of the structure and consists of primarily prehistoric material — prehistoric sherds and shell midden. Below this was were a series of thin refuse lenses not recognized until viewed in profile. Although these were incorporated with

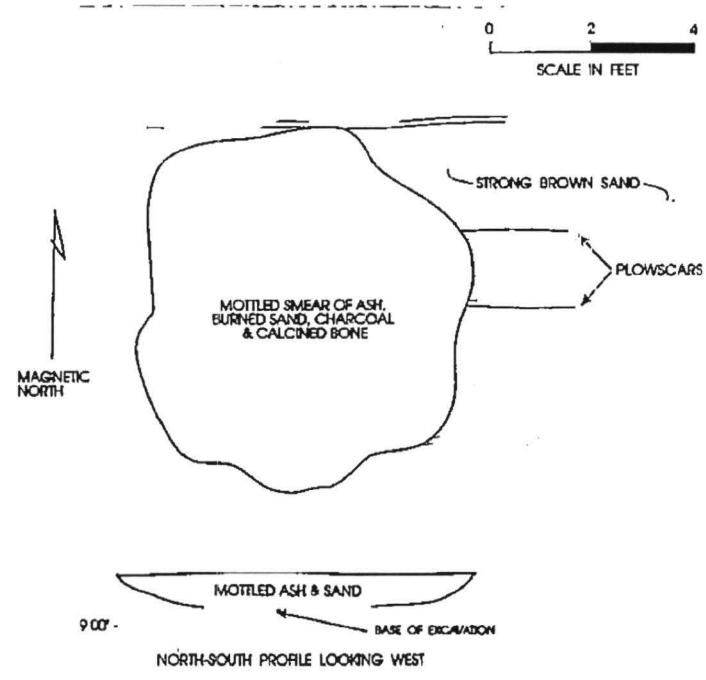

Figure 14. Plan and profile of Feature 8.

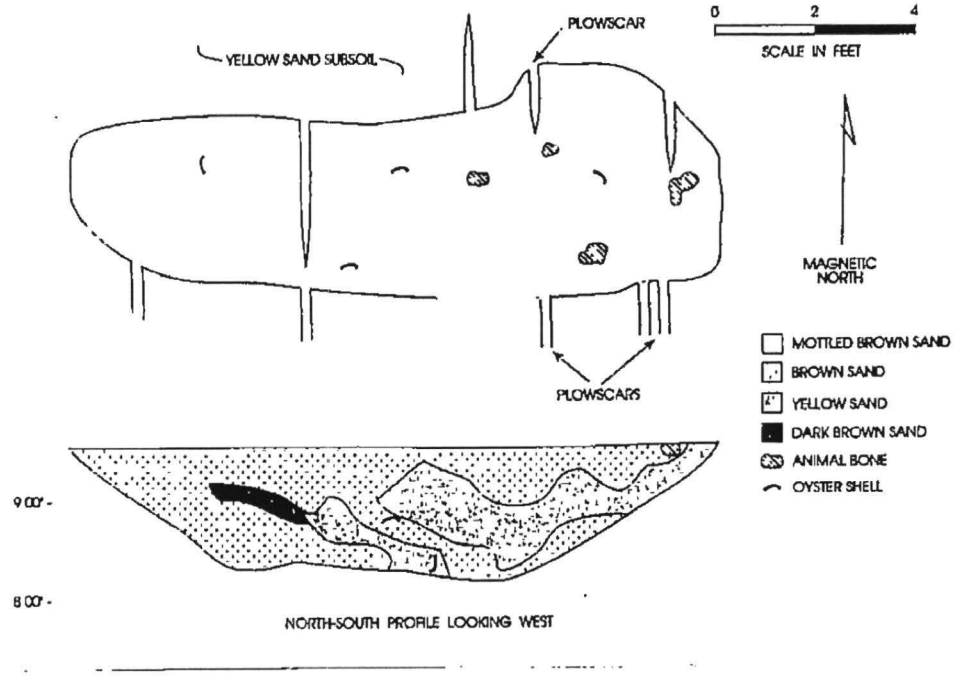

Figure 15. Plan and profile of Feature 9.

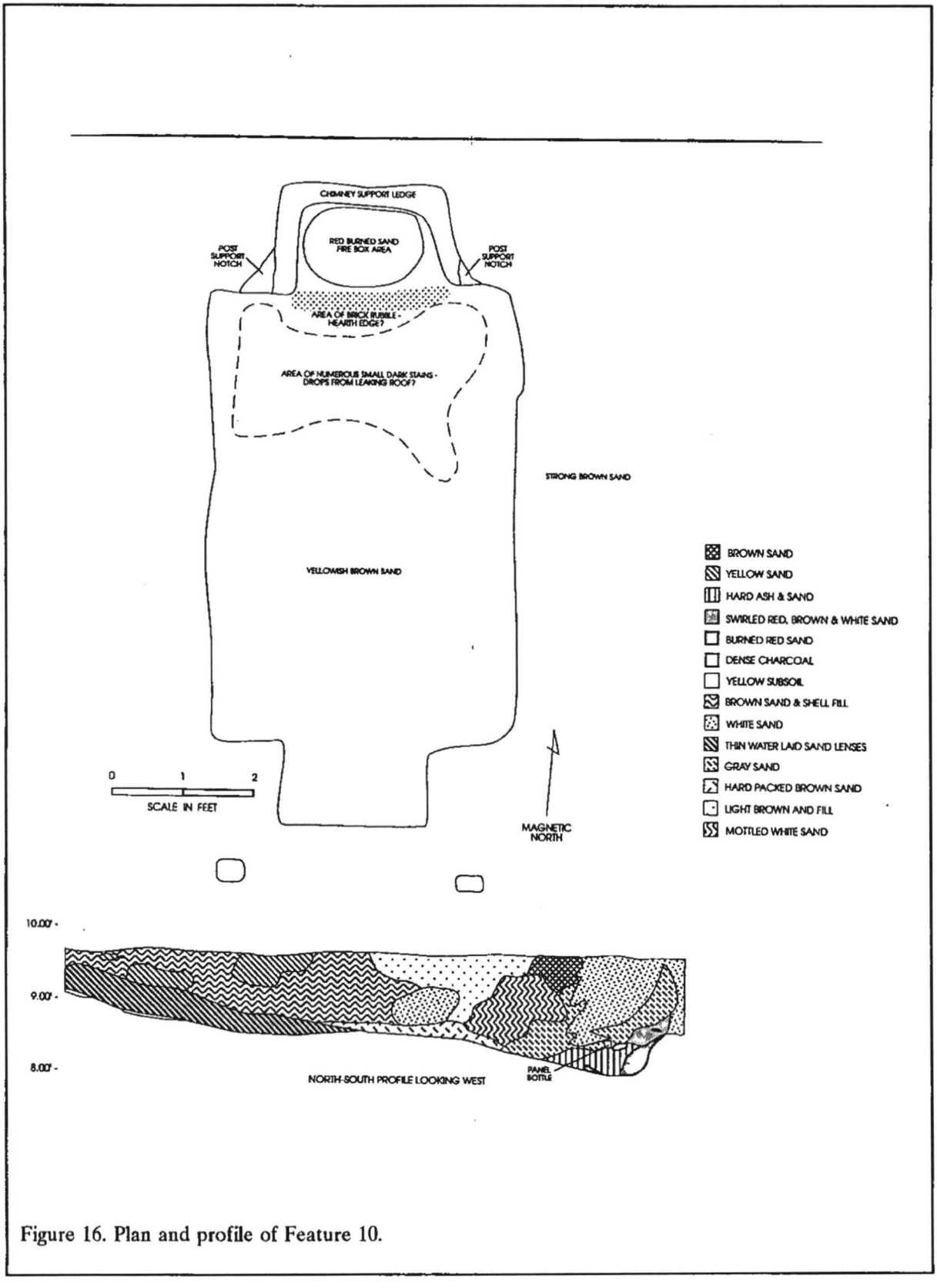

Figure 16. Plan and profile of Feature 10.

Zone 1 they actually represent refuse discarded in the structure, probably its occupants. Materials from these lenses include broken glass, nails, and ceramics. Below Zone 1 was Zone 2 — that portion of the floor clearly recognized by its hard packed texture. At the northern end of the structure Zone 3 was defined on the basis of the large quantity of mixed brown and white sands. At the present time we are not certain what these sands represent. They do, however, contain small quantities of historic material and virtually no prehistoric pottery or shell. No sand this color was found in any of the excavations and we believe that it may have been brought from another location. The sand appears to be associated with the chimney area. Below Zone 3 was Zone 4, representing a gray sand lens which appears to be refuse accumulation in front of the hearth. This zone contained small quantities of ceramics and nails, as well as animal bone — in general containing the types of materials expected from floor sweepings left piles in front of the hearth. Zone 5 represented the ash, charcoal, and burned sand in the firebox area. At the top of Zone 5 was an unburned panel bottle.

Although the feature provides exceptional information concerning the lifeways of Confederate troops stationed at Fort Lamar (one of the artifacts recovered from the feature is a Georgia regimental button), and in spite of its excellent preservation, it provides relatively few clues concerning construction. Partially sunk below ground, this building may have been constructed of logs, although planks are perhaps even more likely. There is no evidence on which to offer conjectures concerning roof construction.

Some additional historical research is being conducted to determine if somewhat similar structures may be found in the literature. In addition, an effort will be made to find parallel archaeological structures from other Civil War sites. However, at present, this is the only such feature of which we are aware.

Features 11 and 12 represent two small shell filled Thom's Creek pits. Feature 11 was found in Cut 1 south of Area B, while Feature 12 was found at the eastern edge of Area D (in Brockington's Cut 8). Both of these features were looted over a weekend, with their centers entirely removed. Some of the shell was piled up beside the features, although much was scattered around, as though it has been searched through. Given the disturbance to these features they were not sampled in this study.

Current State of Analysis

About 3 to 4 cubic feet of material were collected from these excavations. All artifacts have been washed and are awaiting analysis and cataloging. Dr. Homes Hogue has been contacted concerning the zooarchaeological study and she is exploring options to maximize the analysis of the fish bone. As previously mentioned, there is adequate charcoal for a radiometric date from Feature 5. Samples from Feature 5 will also be submitted for pollen studies in the hope of providing additional environmental information on the site area at the time of the Thom's Creek occupation. Similar pollen samples from Zone 2 (floor) of Feature 10 will also be submitted for examination. We hope that the results of this study may provide some additional information on the interior of the structure, perhaps even something concerning its construction. Ethnobotanical remains from Features 5, 8, and 10 will be examined in house. No other specialized studies are anticipated at this time.

Curation

The materials from these excavations have been offered to The Charleston Museum for curation. Acceptance is pending agreement by the curation committee of that institution, although we do anticipate this will be arranged.

Field notes were prepared on ph neutral, alkaline buffered paper and photographic materials are being processed to archival standards. All original field notes, with archival copies will be curated with the collections.

INTERPRETATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The first, and most certain, interpretation is that the study area does not contain evidence of a Mississippian palisaded village. No palisade lines were identified, there is too little Irene pottery to suggest more than a possible hamlet somewhere in the immediate area (with dispersion of the material by plowing), and no evidence of human burials were encountered.

What had been interpreted as palisade lines in fact represent three ditches. One (Feature 2) was probably a drainage ditch excavated sometime in the early nineteenth century, probably to drain low areas surrounding Secessionville — a summer village for James Island planters. Why the ditch was laid out so precisely can't be determined with the current evidence. At least some portions of it may reflect an old property line. Or it may simply have been part of the overall landscape that can't be recognized at the scale of this work. Regardless, it drained to the south, toward the marsh, and was kept open until its sudden and complete closure — probably by Confederate troops preparing to defend James Island, and Charleston, from Union troops advancing from Hilton Head. Since the ditch was originally dug through prehistoric middens, these same middens (now more homogenized) were used as fill, creating a trench which contained shell and abundant Late Archaic pottery.

The other trenches, Features 1 and 7, were a part of the earthworks associated with the marsh battery at Secessionville. In fact, the earthworks can be laid nearly exactly over those mapped by Gillmore at the end of the Civil War. Feature 1 represents the primary trench parallel to the marsh edge, while Feature 7 represents a portion of a gun emplacement. These trenches were kept open only a few years, but throughout the Civil War they were kept clean — reflecting both the compulsiveness of military discipline and the perceived importance of these fortifications to Charleston. Sometime after the Civil War these trenches were filled in. In one case the profiles suggest that this was done somewhat slowly, and probably by hand. In another case the filling appears more rapid. And Feature 6, situated in the middle of Feature 7, reveals that the open holes were convenient receptacles for postbellum uses. Regardless, these trenches, like Feature 2, were filled in with the soil originally removed — soil which represented destroyed prehistoric middens and features.

Features 1 and 7 are significant since they help us, in some small way, better understand the Confederate defenses at Secessionville. Gillmore is widely recognized as a diligent and accurate recorder of Civil War fortifications. The identification of these earthwork features at Secessionville confirms his reputation. Beyond that, they also provide additional information on the engineering aspects of the fortifications, helping us to understand how the trenches were excavated and maintained. They also help us recognize that the Confederate soldier was as circumscribed in his discard behavior as his Union counterpart. The trenches contain little evidence that they were used for trash disposal.

Perhaps more important than the trenches, however, are Features 8, 9, and 10 — representing a small cluster of activities associated with the Confederate occupation of Secessionville. Consisting of a semi-subterranean house, a similar house begun but never finished, and an area where trash was routinely burned, they help us better understand Confederate camp life. They offer an archaeological component to supplement, and perhaps even refine, the historical perspective offered by regimental histories and books such as Wiley's *The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy* (Wiley 1995).

Finally, while the recovery of these Civil War features at 38CH1456 should be no surprise (the Brockington and Associates survey provided

an exceptionally thorough synthesis of historic records and sources), they were not anticipated. Civil War remains were expected to be found in the northeast quadrant of the site, but none for forecast for the project area. Their recovery in this project provides yet another caution that their existence is exceedingly difficult to predict and they may often be completely missed by even large scale data recovery efforts (had Area B been placed only 50 feet further to the west Features 8, 9, and 10 would have been missed).

Information concerning the prehistoric occupants of Secession is more limited. Only a single feature provides good data. Feature 5 is a large shell steaming pit similar to others excavated at Thom's Creek sites such as Lighthouse Point, Stratton Place, and Bass Pond (Trinkley 1980, 1993). The feature at Secessionville, however, may be able to provide additional data. Although only a sample was excavated, the work was carefully quantified. This will allow a much more precise subsistence reconstruction than has been attempted in the past. Second, the zooarchaeological analysis will be undertaken with specific attention to the fish remains. Third, the methodology will allow statements to be made concerning how different interpretations are liable to be based on recovery through flotation versus recovery from ⅛-inch waterscreening. And finally, this feature appears to contain *only* Thom's Creek Plain or Thom's Creek Finger Smoothed sherds. I have suggested that these ware are most common at the terminus of the Thom's Creek phase. This feature may be able to provide radiometric evidence to test this.

In conclusion, the data recovery plan approved by the SC SHPO has been implemented. Additional recommendations by the SC SHPO to use a metal detector to explore the exposed trenches and to sample the Thom's Creek feature, have been successfully integrated into the data recovery plan. All of the proposed, and subsequently suggested, work has been carried out.

Of the approximately 4.5 acres of land on lots 7 through 10 situated between the 50-foot OCRM set back and the preservation easement established by Martschink Realty, approximately 0.9 acre has been subjected to stripping — representing a 20% sample of the study tract. Only 12 features were encountered in this work, suggesting a relatively low density of features for this particular site area. Prehistoric features are exceedingly uncommon and have likely been extensively damaged by years of cultivation (the 1825 Bache map illustrated by Butler [1994:Figure 7] reveals that the entire project area was cultivated at least by the first quarter of the nineteenth century), the development of the summer village, or the development of the Confederate fortifications. Historic features are equally uncommon, probably reflecting what has been suggested by the historic research — that the major military encampment was toward the northeast.

Based on these results, we believe that the study tract has been appropriately, and adequately, examined. Also based on these findings, Chicora Foundation does not recommend any additional investigations at 38CH1456. Of course, the final review is provided by the SC SHPO and the OCRM and we recommend that this management summary be provided for their review and comment.

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